

Record of Heber Town Square Buildings Filed

The public square in Heber City, like those of other early Mormon towns, combined civil, religious, and recreational functions as the center of the community and of Wasatch Co.

The measured drawings that are shown on this page are typical of those prepared by the Historic American Buildings Survey conducted this summer in Utah in collaboration with the Utah Heritage Foundation. The purpose of this survey has been to record the significant historic and architectural structures of this state.

THESE DRAWINGS, WITH the associated photographs and data books will become part of the collection of the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C.

Twenty-three of the one hundred and three drawings prepared this summer are of the Heber Town Square buildings.

The Heber Town Square was particularly selected for this survey because of its unique historical and architectural significance in America.

Mr. Paul Goeldner, the Project Supervisor of the Historic American Buildings Survey, Utah Project, 1967, made the following statement on the Heber Town Square as these drawings were completed.

"WHEN, AFTER A LONG and arduous journey, Brigham Young said, 'This is the place,' he was concerned about the uniqueness of his opportunity to create a better environment rather than a duplicate of what he left behind.

"Without narrowly limiting national borders, Americans have always been free to move. Sometimes they have been challenged by new frontiers but in other cases they have sought escape from their own folly which exhausted the soil, polluted the water, poisoned the air and corroded their human relationships.

"A DIFFICULTY IN OUR own time is that the farther and faster we move, the more every place becomes like every other place and our restless searching leads to increasing disappointment.

"The wanderer finds a promise of something better in the Heber Valley and the tourist is tempted to linger, not only because of the impressive natural setting but because of the beauty and character of the late nineteenth century architecture; the red brick houses of Midway with their lacy white bargeboards and the unique integrity of the Heber City town square.

"UNLIKE THEIR predecessors of 1924 who were anxious to preserve the architectural character of the town square when they built the annex at the rear of the courthouse, present leadership has proposed a new courthouse of a design and placement which would drastically change this character and, unfortunately, make Heber City more monotonously like every other small American town, in which travelers see no reason to slow down or open their wallets.

"It has been suggested that those who want to preserve the square are meddling outsiders. Perhaps they are. Perhaps it is foolish to expect Wasatch County to value its heritage more than hundreds of other communities who now lament the loss of something which made them unique and could have kept them proud. While the trees and buildings remain, there is still hope that the Heber Valley can show itself better and wiser than other places, not only in saving but in using its square.

"BECAUSE THIS CONCERN for America's heritage is more

than local, the national government has taken steps to prevent federal funds being used for projects involving the destruction of historic sites. In the future this will affect projects like the new Wasatch County Courthouse, which involves a federal grant.

"This legislation extends the principle of stewardship which has previously been applied to the soil, water, forests, scenic areas and wilderness to include the historic values which are also the birthright of future generations."

THE PERSONS CONDUCT-ing this survey were interested to learn that the buildings of the Town Square owned by the City of Heber, including the Tabernacle and Social Hall, are operated, maintained and repaired without any cost to the City. This is accomplished through the volunteer effort of individuals and civic organizations and is coordinated and supported by the Wasatch Historical Society. Except for Social Hall rest

room facilities which were renovated by the City to be made available for park visitors, the renovation work on the buildings is being provided for by fund-raising programs and contributions. This will include re-roofing of the north side of the Tabernacle, to be accomplished this fall. A separate program will provide for conversion to gas of the Social Hall heating system also this fall.

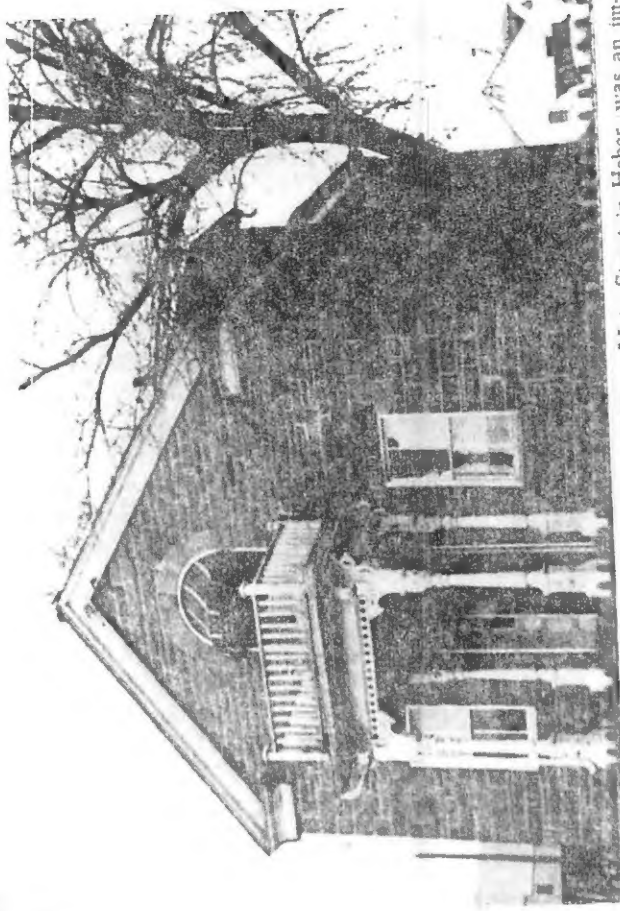
RESEARCHERS FOR THE Historic American Buildings Survey are anxious to have additional information about Heber City's town square before the end of the project in mid-September.

A number of questions were listed in the August 10 issue of the Wasatch Wave. Among the most important are: What was the construction date of the jail? What was the stair location in the courthouse before the 1924 annex was built? What unusual or significant events have taken place in connection with the square or individual

buildings.

Assistance from Heber Valley resident would be very helpful and is requested. Answers may be delivered to the Wasatch Wave or mailed to H.A.B.S., 603 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102.

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS



The Wasatch Stake Tithing Office, built in 1888 on Main Street in Heber, was an important building during the years when so much tithing was paid "in kind."